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PATENT

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(Case No. 00-524-B)

In re Application of:

Mertens et al.

Serial No.: 10/617,288

Filed: July 9, 2003

For: Method and Apparatus For
Liquid-Treating And Drying
A Substrate

Group Art Unit: 1746

Examiner: Frankie L. Stinson

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In the Office Action mailed August 10, 2004, the Examiner stated that restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

- I. Claims 1-16, drawn to a method of treating a substrate,
- II. Claims 17-37, drawn to an apparatus for treating a substrate.

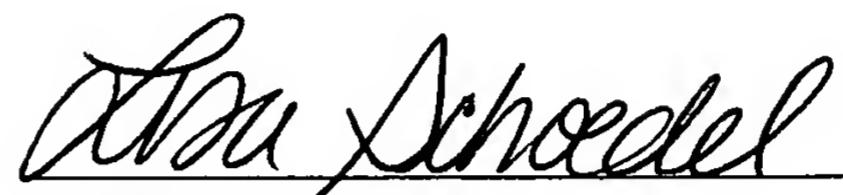
However, the application as filed is a divisional application in which claims 1-16 were canceled from the prior application. After Applicants' undersigned representative questioned the need for a restriction requirement, Examiner Stinson left a message indicating that the restriction requirement was moot.

Accordingly, claims 17-37 are the pending claims in this application for purposes of substantive examination.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 8, 2004

By:



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Sir:

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

In regard to the above identified application:

1. We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- a. Response to Restriction Requirement; and
- b. Return Receipt Postcard.

2. With respect to additional fees:

No fee is due at this time.

3. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No.13-2490. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

4. CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR § 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this Transmittal Letter and the paper, as described in paragraph 1 hereinabove, are being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Lisa M. Schoedel
Reg. No. 53,564

Date: September 8, 2004